Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10.   (Canceled).

11.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented process ~~of aggregating demands~~ comprising the steps of:

validating incoming data from one or more buyers in an electronic procurement system so as to ensure said data is valid;

processing said incoming data in the electronic procurement system so as to extract an aggregation rule and at least one demand;

processing said aggregation rule so as to apply said aggregation rule against said at least one demand to create at least one group of aggregated demands based upon said aggregation rule; and

~~outputting output data indicative of said at least one group~~generating a purchase document for use by a seller, the purchase document being for an order volume that would fulfill the aggregated demands included in said at least one group.

12.   (Withdrawn) A process of aggregating demands as in claim 11, wherein said incoming data is XML based.

13.   (Withdrawn) A process of aggregating demands as in claim 12, wherein said output data is XML based.

14.   (Withdrawn) A process of generating purchase orders through the aggregation of shopping baskets of demands comprising the steps of:

selecting said shopping baskets to be aggregated;

building groups of said shopping baskets based upon an aggregation rule;

assigning a unique group ID for each of said groups;

storing said group IDs; and

generating at least one purchase order based upon at least one of said group IDs.

15.   (Withdrawn) A process of generating purchase orders as in claim 14, further comprising the step of determining said aggregation rule to be applied to said shopping baskets.

16.   (Withdrawn) A process of generating purchase orders as in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

determining if any attributes of said demands within said shopping baskets are missing; and

if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes from another source.

17.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented process of creating and using coalitions of demands comprising the steps of:

creating a process ID to identify a process through which said coalitions are to be created;

creating groups of demands in an electronic procurement system based upon an application of an aggregation rule;

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing[[;]] and if said attributes are missing, automatically acquiring said any missing attributes from another source using the electronic procurement system;

assigning a unique group ID for each group created and assigning said process ID to said demands;

assigning said demands to said coalitions based upon said group IDs; and

once a predetermined time period has passed, closing said coalitions[[.]]; and

generating at least one purchase document for use by a seller, the at least one purchase document being for an order volume that would fulfill the aggregated demands included in at least one coalition.

18.   (Original) A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting manual addition of additional demands to said coalitions.

19.   (Original) A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting coalitions to be manually closed prior to said predetermined time period passing.

20.-21. (Canceled).

22.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented process ~~of grouping demands input into a system by a user into coalitions of demands~~ comprising the steps of:

inputting demands from a buyer into a demand aggregation application in an electronic procurement system;

analyzing said demands by applying an aggregation rule to determine if said demands meet criteria of a coalition;

~~if said analysis of said demands indicates that said demands meet criteria of a plurality of coalitions,~~ proposing to said user said ~~plurality of~~ coalition[[s]] ~~to said user~~ having criteria that are met by said demands and [[;]] permitting said user to assign said demands to ~~a~~ said coalition ~~of said plurality of coalitions~~;

~~if said analysis of said demands indicates that said demands do not meet criteria of any of said coalitions,~~ automatically creating a new coalition to accommodate ~~said~~ demands that do not meet criteria of a coalition[[.]]; and

generating at least one purchase document for use by a seller, the at least one purchase document being for an order volume that would fulfill the aggregated demands included in at least one coalition.

23.   (Currently amended) A process of grouping demands as in claim 22, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~ determining if any attributes of said demands are missing[[;]] and ~~if said attributes are missing,~~ acquiring ~~said~~ any missing attributes from another source.

24.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented process ~~of aggregating demands according to an aggregation rule~~ comprising the steps of:

collecting at an electronic procurement system demands from a plurality of ~~sources~~buyers;

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing[[;]] and ~~if said attributes are missing,~~ acquiring ~~said~~ any missing attributes from another source;

creating in the electronic procurement system groups of aggregated demands based upon an application of said aggregation rule; and

~~forwarding said demands to a demand aggregation application.~~

generating at least one purchase document for use by a seller, the at least one purchase document being for an order volume that would fulfill the aggregated demands included in at least one of said groups.

25.   (Canceled).

26.   (New) A process of aggregating demands as in claim 11, further comprising outputting output data indicative of said at least one group to the user for review prior to generating the purchase document.

27.   (New) A process of aggregating demands as in claim 11, wherein said aggregation rule is defined by the buyer.

28.   (New) A process of aggregating demands as in claim 11, wherein the said purchase document is generated a predetermined period of time after processing said incoming data.